

Centered versus Directed

In this schema you can find a handy way to distinguish between the following concepts: Teacher Centered, Teacher Directed, Student Centered, Student Directed.

In the context of these concepts, this schema will also identify how these ideas function in a variety of Methods of Instruction (Note, these are methods and not concepts). This schema represents a generalized idea. However, variations or hybrids may be observed in lessons.

Centered relates to who's thinking/ideas/concepts/understanding is central in the learning that is to be done. So Teacher Centered, means that the students' job is to make the thinking that is presented by the teacher (i.e. authority) their own. Student Centered means that the central ideas in the lesson are the students' and they try to make sense out of their own ideas first. The teacher tends to facilitate the development of that thinking if needed.

Directed relates to who controls the processes of learning. Note: In many lessons this can be shared by the teachers and the students.

